

In the Claims

Claims 1-40 [canceled].

1 41. [New] An imaging device configuration method comprising:
2 receiving information regarding a plurality of imaging devices of a plurality of
3 groups of a common network, wherein the receiving comprises receiving using an
4 external device which is external of the common network;
5 using the external device, communicating a message regarding the imaging
6 devices of one of the groups;
7 using the external device, receiving data regarding the imaging devices of the
8 one of the groups responsive to the communicating the message;
9 using the external device, generating configuration information using the
10 data, wherein the configuration information is usable to configure the imaging
11 devices of the one of the groups; and
12 using the external device, communicating a communication comprising the
13 configuration information.

1 42. [New] The method of claim 41 further comprising identifying an
2 individual associated with the one of the groups, and wherein the communicating
3 comprises communicating the communication to the individual and the receiving
4 comprises receiving the data from the individual.

1 43. [New] The method of claim 42 further comprising configuring the
2 imaging devices of the one of the groups by the individual using the configuration
3 information.

1 44. [New] The method of claim 43 wherein the imaging devices and the
2 common network are resources of an entity, the individual is authorized to configure
3 the imaging devices of the one of the groups of the entity, and wherein the imaging
4 devices of the one of the groups are used by people of the entity who are different
5 than the individual.

1 45. [New] The method of claim 41 wherein the receiving the data
2 comprises receiving the data regarding thresholds of use of the imaging devices and
3 the communicating the communication comprises communicating the
4 communication comprising the configuration information which is usable to
5 configure the imaging devices by setting the thresholds for the imaging devices and
6 which cause the imaging devices to perform actions responsive to triggering of the
7 thresholds.

1 46. [New] The method of claim 41 wherein the imaging devices consume
2 a consumable to form hard images upon media, and wherein the receiving the data
3 comprises receiving the data configured to set a group order threshold which
4 controls when a combined order is to be placed for the consumable for the imaging
5 devices of the one of the groups.

1 47. [New] The method of claim 41 wherein the imaging devices consume
2 a consumable to form hard images upon media, and wherein the receiving the data
3 comprises receiving the data comprising a current amount of inventory of the
4 consumable of a supplier who supplies the consumable to the imaging devices of the
5 one of the groups.

1 48. [New] The method of claim 41 wherein the imaging devices consume
2 a consumable to form hard images upon media, and further comprising:
3 indicating a need for replenishment of the consumable for at least some of
4 the imaging devices of the one of the groups; and
5 generating a combined order for the consumable for the at least some of the
6 imaging devices.

1 49. [New] The method of claim 48 further comprising placing the
2 combined order to replenish the consumable for the at least some of the imaging
3 devices.

1 50. [New] The method of claim 49 wherein the placing the combined
2 order comprises placing an order for another consumable not needing replenishment
3 at the time of the placing.

1 51. [New] The method of claim 41 wherein the common network
2 comprises a firewall, and further comprising receiving a plurality of executable
3 instructions using an internal device inside of the firewall from the external device,
4 executing the executable instructions using the internal device to discover the
5 imaging devices of the common network, and communicating identification
6 information regarding the imaging devices to the external device after the
7 discovering.

1 52. [New] A imaging device management method comprising:
2 receiving executable instructions within a common network, wherein the
3 executable instructions are received from externally of the common network and are
4 passed by a firewall of the common network, wherein a plurality of imaging devices
5 are inside of the firewall and are coupled with the common network;
6 using an internal device inside of the firewall and coupled with the common
7 network, executing the executable instructions to discover the imaging devices and
8 to generate identification information regarding the imaging devices; and
9 outputting the identification information regarding the imaging devices
10 externally of the common network including passing the identification information
11 through the firewall.

1 53. [New] The method of claim 52 further comprising outputting a
2 communication externally of the common network, and wherein the receiving
3 comprises receiving the executable instructions responsive to the outputting the
4 communication.

1 54. [New] The method of claim 52 further comprising defining a plurality
2 of different groups of the imaging devices, and wherein the imaging devices are
3 configured to use a consumable to form hard images upon media, and further
4 comprising, using the internal device, communicating a group order threshold setting

5 to the external device and wherein the group order threshold setting identifies a
6 threshold when a combined order for the consumable is to be placed for a plurality
7 of the imaging devices of one of the groups.

1 55. [New] The method of claim 52 wherein the imaging devices are
2 individually configured to use a consumable to form hard images upon media, and
3 further comprising, using the internal device, outputting a plurality of threshold
4 settings which identify thresholds of the consumable for respective ones of the
5 imaging devices when the consumable is to be ordered for the imaging devices.

1 56. [New] An imaging device configuration method comprising:
2 identifying an individual associated with an organization which has a common
3 network and a plurality of imaging devices coupled with the common network,
4 wherein the imaging devices are used by people of the organization other than the
5 individual;
6 using an external device which is external of the common network, sending a
7 message to the individual;
8 using the external device, receiving data from the individual responsive to the
9 sending; and
10 after the receiving and using the external device, outputting configuration
11 information usable to configure operations of the imaging devices with respect to
12 formation of hard images upon media by the imaging devices.

1 57. [New] The method of claim 56 wherein the outputting comprises
2 communicating the configuration information directly to respective ones of the
3 imaging devices.

1 58. [New] The method of claim 56 wherein the outputting comprises
2 communicating the configuration information to the individual.

1 59. [New] The method of claim 56 wherein the imaging devices are
2 configured to use a consumable to form the hard images upon the media, and
3 wherein the outputting the configuration information comprises outputting the

- 4 configuration information which is usable to set a threshold for replenishment of the
5 consumable for at least one of the imaging devices.

- 1 60. [New] The method of claim 56 further comprising defining a plurality
2 of groups comprising different ones of the imaging devices, and setting a group
3 order threshold setting for replenishing the consumable for the imaging devices of
4 one of the groups in a single order.